

# Wall Street and Woodrow Wilson

Under the headline, "Wall Street and Wilson," the Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat prints the following editorial: Among the Wall street organs of big business none is more troubled in spirit over the unruliness of Woodrow Wilson than the New York Herald. It was among those great journalistic champions of things as they are which laid the flattering unction to their souls that the New Jersey governor's platform was designed to get in on not to stand on; and now that it finds that Governor Wilson is taking his pledges and promises seriously and is determined to have others take them seriously the Herald emits a roar of anguish which would do credit to the Sun itself. In an editorial charging that the president-elect is under the baneful influence of W. J. Bryan, the esteemed Herald says:

"When Mr. Wilson was elected to the presidency there was no thought that he was to be a Bryan. He said that none of the reforms presented by him in indefinite terms and believed to be academic would be carried out in such a way as to cause business disturbance. The country took him at his word and he went in as a minority president, but it saw to it that his plurality was sufficient to give him a majority of the electoral college.

"Yet the public is now realizing that Mr. Wilson is under the influence of Mr. Bryan, and his utterances have breathed such a hostile spirit toward business, have demonstrated such a hectoring tone and generally have shown such a spirit of intolerance that confidence has been shaken and the outlook is not satisfactory. It is almost as if Bryan were president-elect.

"Mr. Wilson can easily break himself by pursuing his present course. But that isn't very important compared with breaking the country."

But what part of the "country" is Governor Wilson "breaking" or threatening to "break?"

## WOODROW WILSON'S ANTI-TRUST LAWS

Following is a dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer: Trenton, N. J., January 20.—President-elect Woodrow Wilson today reached what he considers the climax in his program of reform as governor of New Jersey. Seven bills making for the most extensive revision of the corporation laws in the history of the state were introduced tonight in the state legislature.

"These acts are designed to put an end to trust and monopolies under the laws of New Jersey," declared Governor Wilson in a prepared statement describing the measures, "and I confidently predict that they will accomplish that much-desired result."

Though the principle of the bills, which seek to prevent monopolies, underselling in local markets, mergers, the existence of holding companies and the issuance of watered stock, is one which the governor emphasized repeatedly during the national campaign, he declared tonight that the proposed legislation had been drawn with the conditions in the state of New Jersey alone in mind.

"These bills embody my ideas of the way New Jersey should deal with the question," he said. "National legislation might have to be different."

Ever since the close of the campaign the governor has been working on the problem of corporation reform. Chancellor Edward I. Walker and Judge Bennet Van Syckel assisted him, and tonight the bills were launched in the senate. As the acts are administration measures, and the democrats have a comfortable majority in both houses, democratic leaders were practically unanimous in predicting that they would be enacted with little opposition.

The feature of the bills that attracted most attention was the provision making violations of the proposed law a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment as well as fines. The bills go into extensive detail in defining trusts, monopolies and mergers. It was pointed out in the statement issued from the governor's office, however, that while mergers and consolidations are prohibited in general, the proposed laws do not intend to prevent the legitimate expansion of a business concern by the purchase of property "cognate in character."

Provision for this is made in the second of the series of bills, which says:

"When stock is issued on the basis of the stock of any other corporation, no stock shall be issued therefor in an amount greater than the sum actually paid for such stock in cash or its equivalent, provided that the property purchased or owned by the corporation whose stock

And in what particular does his present course differ from his course in the past? Is he proposing anything today that he was not proposing a year or even two years ago? Is not what he is saying in 1913 wholly consistent with what he said when he first came before the country as a presidential possibility?

Ah, but Mr. Wilson is "under the influence of Mr. Bryan." That is to say, he is not under the influence of Mr. Morgan, Mr. Belmont or Mr. Ryan. Were he under an influence so benign as theirs this would be a happy land indeed and Wall street might pull its silken robes about it and lapse back into its golden dreams. But with the Bryan influence betraying itself it promises to gibbet the Morgans and the Belmonts and the Ryans as high as Haman if they join in a conspiracy to wreck the country in a spirit of mad revenge, the situation becomes alarming indeed and the Herald is quite justified in sounding the tocsin.

Still matters might be worse, considered from the standpoint of field and forge, for apparently the distress which racks the soul of Wall street is not shared by the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. The plain people seem to be fairly well satisfied with Governor Wilson and the influences which he appears to court and so far from his course having a tendency to "break the country," it seems to be quite the other way about, the country showing little sign of alarm and manifesting daily an increasing confidence in the lofty courage and the high purpose of the gentleman whom Wall street has come so thoroughly to distrust.

The country indeed took Governor Wilson at his word and he is now keeping faith with the country by making it clear that his word was not lightly given and is not to be lightly broken. The people were not fooled in Wilson. But Wall street made the mistake of fooling itself into the belief that he didn't mean what he said.

is purchased must be cognate in character and use to the property used or contemplated to be used by the purchasing corporation in the direct conduct of its own proper business."

This still permits, it is stated, a corporation to extend its business by the purchase of the property, including the stock of another corporation if its business be the same, but prevents the issuing of watered stock in the transaction. It has nothing to do with holding companies, which are otherwise treated, it is contended.

While the bills, it is claimed, take away none of the rights of existing corporations, they do restrict these companies from extending their holdings and make them subject to the provisions forbidding underselling, discriminations and other monopolistic practices. Present companies will be affected so far as future stock issuances and mergers are concerned.

Among the larger combinations chartered under New Jersey laws are the United States Steel corporation, the Standard Oil company, the American Tobacco company, the American Sugar Refining company, the International Harvester company, the Amalgamated Copper company, the United States Leather company and the Rock Island Railroad company.

The total capitalization of companies having certificates of incorporation in New Jersey is \$7,861,499,369. Here is a list of the 17 largest New Jersey corporations:

United States Steel .....	\$868,583,600
Amalgamated Copper .....	153,887,900
Rock Island company .....	150,000,000
International Mercantile Marine..	120,000,000
American Tobacco .....	118,931,000
Federal Steel company .....	99,745,200
American company .....	82,393,349
Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey..	81,843,625
Corn Products company.....	79,575,100
Distilling Co. of America.....	76,719,200
United States Rubber company...	74,730,000
American Woolen company .....	69,501,000
Carnegie Steel company .....	64,524,750
American Car and Foundry Co....	60,000,000
Pittsburgh Coal company .....	54,000,000
United States Copper company...	50,000,000

## THE WILSON CORPORATION LAWS

The New York Sun, habitually antagonistic to those who object to the encroachments by special interests, pays this tribute (without meaning it as a tribute, of course) to President Wilson:

"The measure introduced at Trenton at the instance of the next president are definite, intelligible, drastic and perfectly indicative of a settled policy on the part of the most influential

person in the United States. They banish all doubts as to the methods by which Governor Wilson would deal with the evils of which he has talked so much and often so vaguely. These are projects of law, not rhetorical utterances of a more or less academic philosophy. The 'thrill' of which we have lately heard finds expression in the precise terms of statutory English."

The Sun will discover that President Wilson is "A Leader Unafraid," and that he will faithfully fulfill his campaign pledges.

## A VALUABLE BOOK

Mr. J. H. Blount, of Washington, D. C., has recently published an important book, entitled, "The American Occupation of the Philippines." Every student of the subject should have this book. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican says of it:

"It is impossible to read James H. Blount's wonderful recital of the two years spent in the army which carried the American flag to the Philippines—years full of the dangers and excitements that followed upon Dewey's destruction of the Spanish fleet—without a responsive thrill. This portion of his work is breathlessly interesting, but it is not the most valuable to the serious reader. He recommends that the Filipinos be given home rule by 1921, the date proposed in the Jones bill introduced in congress last March (1912). Through new territorialization treaties the islands can be made as permanently neutral territory in Asiatic politics as Switzerland and Belgium are in Europe. The book is written with such vigorous faith, consistent logic, and personal knowledge of the facts that it is as convincingly interesting to read as the information it conveys is politically and historically vital."

The following quotations from the book show the conclusion reached by Mr. Blount:

"Senator Lodge's statement of the position of those who voted for the treaty should forever set at rest the stale injustice, still occasionally repeated, that Mr. Bryan 'played politics' in 1898-9 in urging his friends in the senate to vote for its ratification. Says Senator Lodge (History of the War with Spain, p. 231):

"The friends of ratification took the very simple ground that the treaty committed the United States to no policy, but left them free to do exactly as seemed best with all the islands; that the American people could be safely entrusted with this grave responsibility, and that patriotism and common sense alike demanded the end of the war and the re-establishment of peace, which could only be effected by the adoption of the treaty."

"It is because I believe that in the Philippines we are doing ourselves an injustice and keeping back the progress of the world by depreciating and scoffing at the value of patriotism as a factor in self-government and in the maintenance of free institutions, that I have written this book. There is no more patriotic people in the world than the Filipino people. I base this opinion upon an intimate knowledge of them, and in the light of considerable observation throughout most of Europe, and in Asia from the Golden Horn to the mouth of the Yang-tse. Woe to the nonsense, sometimes ignorant, sometimes vicious, wherewith we are regaled from time to time by Americans who go to Manila, smoke a cigar or two in some American club there, and then come back home and depreciate the Filipino people without at least correcting Colonel Roosevelt's wholly uninformed and cruel random assertions of 1900 about the Filipinos being 'the Osceola of the Philippines,' or their 'Sitting Bull.' It is wonderfully inspiring to turn from such stale slander to Mr. Bryan's statement of the case for our Oriental subjects, a statement framed in his own infinitely sympathetic and inimitable way, which says for me just what I had long wanted to express, but could not, so well."

Price of book, \$4.23, including postage. Address the author, District National bank building, Washington, D. C.

## CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON AND MISSOURI

One week New York and Ohio ratified the proposed amendment providing for the direct election of United States senators. Now California, Washington and Missouri follow the good example.

NEXT!

## WILSON THE PROGRESSIVE

Louisville (Ky.) Times: Governor Wilson's declaration is that he intends to keep the faith entrusted to him. No more and no less was expected of him.